

CLAIMS:

1. A method for providing an application for a communication device having a layered protocol stack including a transport layer for communicating with a network, comprising the steps of:
 - providing a first software application at the communication device for carrying out a first application via the transport layer, and
 - providing a second software application at the communication device, wherein the second software application implements a transport layer proxy between the first software application and the network.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication device communicates with the network via an air interface.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises accessing a remote server by establishing:
 - (i) a local transport layer connection between the first software application and the second software application, and
 - (ii) a further transport layer connection between the second software application and the remote server.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the local transport layer connection and the further transport layer connection are client-server based connections.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the second software application acts as a proxy for the first software application and provides at least one additional service for the first software application or for the user of the device.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the provided additional service comprises selecting a network interface to be used in the case where more than one network interface is available.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the provided additional service comprises selecting a bearer for crossing an air interface.
- 5 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the bearer operates in the protocol stack on a layer lower than the transport layer.
9. The method of claim 6, wherein the selection of a network interface or a bearer is performed based on information which comprises at least one of the
10 following: network availability, user-defined rules, time, location, cost.
10. The method of claim 5, wherein the provided additional service comprises providing a network interface not natively supported by an operating system of the device.
- 15 11. The method of claim 5, wherein the provided additional service comprises providing support for multiple users.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein support for multiple users is implemented
20 via a set of predefined user profiles.
13. The method of claim 5, wherein the provided additional service comprises receiving information indicative of a change in a remote server address and modifying the remote server address at the communication device by the sec-
25 ond software application, whereby no modification in the first software application is needed.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein the first software application is an e-mail client, web browser or another end-user application.
- 30 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the transport layer is implemented by TCP

(Transmission Control Protocol).

16. A communication device which comprises a first software application and which communication device is configured for communication with a network by using a layered protocol stack comprising a transport layer, the communication device further comprising:
- a second software application at the same communication device, wherein the second software application is configured to implement a transport layer proxy between the first software application and the network.
17. The communication device of claim 16, wherein the communication device is configured for communication via an air interface.
18. The communication device of claim 16, wherein the communication device is configured for access to a remote server by establishing:
- (iii) a local transport layer connection between the first software application and the second software application, and
 - (iv) a further transport layer connection between the second software application and the remote server.
19. The communication device of claim 18, wherein the local transport layer connection and the further transport layer connection are client-server based connections.
20. The communication device of claim 16, wherein the second software application comprises program code for acting as a proxy for the first software application and for providing at least one additional service for the first software application or for the user of the device.

21. The communication device of claim 20, wherein the provided additional service comprises selecting a network interface to be used in the case where more than one network interface is available.
- 5
22. The communication device of claim 20, wherein the provided additional service comprises selecting a bearer for crossing an air interface.
23. The communication device of claim 22, wherein the bearer is operable in the protocol stack on a layer lower than the transport layer.
- 10
24. The communication device of claim 22, wherein the second software application comprises program code for selecting the network interface or the bearer based on information which comprises at least one of the following: network availability, user-defined rules, time, location, cost.
- 15
25. The communication device of claim 20, wherein the provided additional service comprises providing a network interface not natively supported by an operating system of the device.
- 20
26. The communication device of claim 20, wherein the provided additional service comprises providing support for multiple users.
27. The communication device of claim 26, which is configured provide support for multiple users via a set of predefined user profiles.
- 25
28. The communication device of claim 20, wherein the provided additional service comprises receiving information indicative of a change in a remote server address and modifying the remote server address at the communication device by the second software application, whereby no modification in the first software application is needed.
- 30

29. The communication device of claim 16, wherein the first software application is an e-mail client, web browser or another end-user application.
- 5 30. The communication device of claim 16, wherein the transport layer is a TCP (Transmission Control Protocol) layer.
31. A system comprising a communication device and a network, which communication device comprises a first software application and which communication device is configured for communication with the network by using a layered protocol stack comprising a transport layer, the communication device further comprising:
- 10 a second software application at the same communication device, wherein the second software application is configured to implement a transport layer proxy between the first software application and the network.
- 15 32. The system of claim 18, wherein the communication device is configured for communication with the network via an air interface.
- 20 33. A software application executable in a communication device, which communication device comprises another software application and which communication device is configured for communication with a network by using a layered protocol stack comprising a transport layer, the software application comprising:
- 25 program code for implementing a transport layer proxy between said another software application and the network.
34. The software application of claim 33, wherein the software application is a computer program product stored on a medium.
- 30